

# News From The Good Shepherd



## **A Prayer for the New Year**

**As we have been blessed in each year past.  
O God of beginnings and of endings,  
We trust in you as we begin this new year.  
Grant that we may have the vision to see  
the blessings in our joy  
in our sorrow  
in our triumphs  
in our failures  
in our struggles along the way.**

**Grant that we may know your abiding presence in all  
that we do  
that we see  
that we hear.**

**Grant that we may know your love  
in every cell of our being  
in every new life  
in every death  
in resurrection.**

**Grant that we may share in our abundant blessings  
of possessions  
of faith  
of hope  
of opportunities to minister with love in your name.**

**May all of this be true in this new year, O God of grace,  
for your glory  
from the power of your love  
for the joy of real life  
for all people  
according to your great mercy.**

**May we live in the life of our true Mom and Dad, who gave us life  
in the name of Jesus, our brother, friend, example and redeemer  
in the power of the Holy Spirit, our guardian, our comfort and strength.  
Amen. (Author-unknown)**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dana" with a small cross-like mark at the end.

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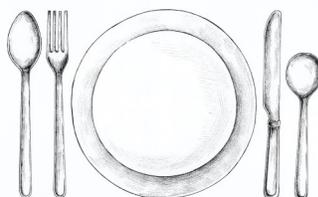
## GOOD SHEPHERD VESTRY

**By Kathy Stokes, Senior Warden**

The Good Shepherd Vestry's final meeting for 2025 took place on December 16. The majority of the meeting was set aside to discuss the budget for 2026. As I write this, 90% of our budget goal has been achieved through pledges from the parish. Thank you to everyone who made a financial commitment to our continuing ministries. This will make it easier to present a balanced budget at the Annual Meeting on January 18.

The Vestry also received a letter from Mary Randall's local discernment team which recommends her to continue in the process towards ordination. The members of Vestry signed a letter to Bishop Kara Wagner Shearer which affirms this decision. Many blessings to Mary as she continues her journey towards ordained ministry.

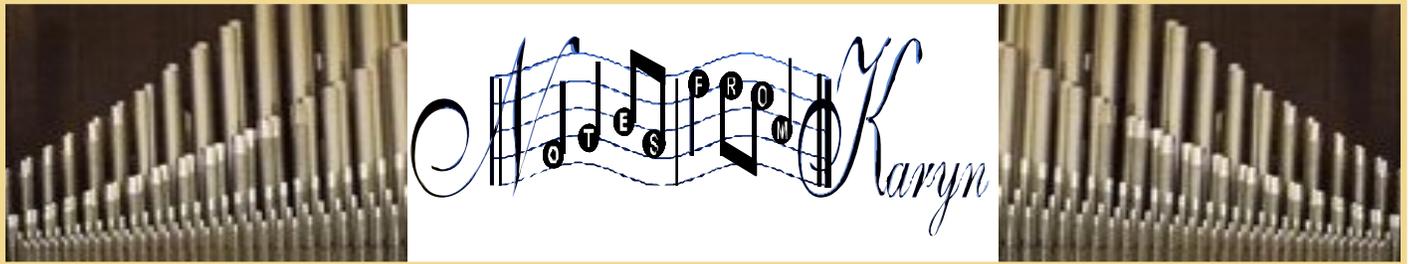
Happy New Year to all, and may God's blessings be upon you!



### MEAL MINISTRY

By Debra Nelson

In the Good Shepherd spirit of hospitality and helpfulness, our church community has a Meal Ministry. A group of "meal ministers" is ready to support anyone in our church who is "under the weather." We are here to help! If you know of any member of our church who needs this service, please text or call Debra at (585) 261-9570, and we will set up meals through their recovery.



*“Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?  
For we have seen his star in the East,  
And have come to worship him!”  
(Matthew 2: 2)*

Epiphany is the season of gifts and light. It’s the celebration of the coming of the wisemen with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They followed the light of the Star to the Christ Child, the Light of the World.

Christina Rossetti gave us the gift of two beautiful Christmas carols. She wrote them in the 1800s, but they ring as true and meaningful today as they did at that time.

The first is “In the Bleak Midwinter.” It ends with this verse:

*“What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.  
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.”*

This Christmas the Adult Choir sang another of her hymns during communion on Christmas Eve. The poem is beautiful:

*Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine.  
Love was born at Christmas: star and angels gave the sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine.  
Worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?*

*Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine.  
Love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.*

Our Christmas music was truly a gift of love by many. By the choirs, the ensembles, the vocalists, the instrumentalists, and the congregation and by those who broadcast our liturgies. Thank you to everyone for making our Christmas celebrations so festive and meaningful!

Now we carry our gifts of music and the meaning of Christmas into the Epiphany season. May the light and love of Christ shine in all our hearts as we celebrate this season of light!

*“So, bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.”  
(“What Child Is This?” verse 3)*



Isaiah 40:1 says: “comfort, comfort My people, says your God.”

A BIG THANKS to all our church family’s donations of food and hygiene products to A Meal and More every week of the year. Thank you to all our volunteers from Good Shepherd who faithfully commit to serving and comforting our visitors at least once every month. We staff more meal services than any other church or business (3 per month). A HUGE shout out to those who have taken time around the busy holidays to serve our hungry guests! And MANY thanks to everyone who donated items for the gift bags and gift cards that allow us to make a VERY SPECIAL Christmas dinner and special items the people can take with them!

We served a beautiful Christmas dinner on Christmas Eve. We had ham and all the usual accoutrements. Many hams were donated and gift cards given to offset the cost of serving a very well-reserved dinner. Thank you very much for your donations that helped us provide a scrumptious menu. Our dessert included delicious homemade cookies made by a Good Shepherd parishioner, Judy Mevs, and many of her friends. They are pictured on this page!

The setting was beautiful, giving our people the feeling of Christmas at home. With the help of volunteers and guests, led by Julie our Chef, each table was graced with a candle, vase of flowers, and heart-warming message. A Christmas tree in the corner and a wreath on the wall made the atmosphere merry indeed. Christmas gift bags (gloves, toothbrushes, shampoo, warm socks, ramen noodles, deodorant, hand lotion, washcloths, hand warmers, and more) were given to each person as they departed.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Debra Nelson at 585-261-9570 or email [amam.volunteers@gmail.com](mailto:amam.volunteers@gmail.com). WE NEED A BREAD RUNNER EFFECTIVE JANUARY 14 – and every SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH – to pick up breads and desserts at Caulkins Rd. Wegmans and deliver them to A MEAL AND MORE. Please text or email Chris Nuccitelli if you are interested. His # is (585) 737- 5927 and email: [nuccitellichris@gmail.com](mailto:nuccitellichris@gmail.com). We hope you will join us on the first or third Sundays of the month or the second Wednesday to be part of our Good Shepherd service team. Anyone can participate in our food drives! And if you have a special talent, please share it with us, so we can find a spot for you. We would love to have our whole church family involved with A Meal and More in one way or another! We look forward to another wonderful year together!





**OUTREACH**  
*at Good Shepherd*

by Jill Daddis

We completed our first year of serving the monthly community dinners in December. When we started a year ago, it was a bit of an experiment, but it has worked out very well!! We have a great team and great support of the congregation with baked goods. We are signed up through May so far for 2026. Our dinners are the last Friday of each month.

January 30th

February 27th

March 27th

April 24th

May 29th

Additionally, outreach supported food being distributed to SNAP recipients in November by Simply Crepes by donating \$1000.00.

The attached picture is from a Christmas gathering that Jeff Boles had for the outreach team last week. A good time was had by all!



## Strengthening Our Foundation: A 2026 Stewardship Update

By Kris Murray

As we step into 2026, we want to share a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has already committed to supporting our congregational mission. Stewardship is more than just a financial goal; it is a reflection of our shared values and our commitment to the work we do together.

As of today, we are incredibly close to reaching our goals, and we wanted to provide a transparent look at where we stand.

### Our 2026 Progress at a Glance

Our budgeted pledge income target for 2026 is \$286,811.86. This figure represents the essential resources needed to maintain our programs, care for our facilities, and serve our neighbors.

Here is how our current numbers compare to this time last year:

Category	Last Year (Final)	This Year (To Date)	Difference
Total Dollars Pledged	\$294,228.87	\$286,020.00	-\$8,208.87
Number of Pledges	117	107	

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and for being such a vital part of Good Shepherd.

### Shepherdess Reminder

By Betty Nohle



SHEPHERDESS GATHERING

This is to remind you all that in January, February and March we will be meeting at noon instead of the dinner hour. This is at the request of those who do not drive after dark. Watch for the notices of where we will be gathering during these months. REMEMBER it is always on the LAST Tuesday of the month all year long. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## 2026 Good Shepherd Book Club



By Brenda Munch

We will be discussing these books on the days indicated. We hope you can join us.

### January 22, 2026

#### **Gray Mountain by John Grisham**

The year is 2008 and Samantha Kofer's career at a huge Wall Street law firm is on the fast track—until the recession hits and she is downsized, furloughed, and escorted out of the building. Samantha, though, is offered an opportunity to work at a legal aid clinic for one year without pay, all for a slim chance of getting rehired.

### February 26, 2026

#### **The Secret Book of Flora Lea by Patti Callihan Henry**

When a woman discovers a rare book with connections to her past, long-held secrets about her missing sister and their childhood in the English countryside during World War II are revealed in this “beguiling blend of hope, mystery, and true familial love” (Sadeqa Johnson, *New York Times* bestselling author).

### March 26, 2026

#### **The Four Winds by Kristen Hannah**

A woman named Elsa Martinelli who leaves her home in Texas during the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl to seek a better life in California with her children. It is a story of survival, resilience, and a mother's sacrifice as she and her family face hardship, poverty, and prejudice, while also exploring themes of hope and the American Dream.

### April 23, 2026

#### **The Silent Sister by Diane Chamberlain**

In *The Silent Sister*, Riley MacPherson has spent her entire life believing that her older sister Lisa committed suicide as a teenager. Now, over twenty years later, her father has passed away and she's in New Bern, North Carolina cleaning out his house when she finds evidence to the contrary. Lisa is alive. Alive and living under a new identity. But why exactly was she on the run all those years ago, and what secrets are being kept now? As Riley works to uncover the truth, her discoveries will put into question everything she thought she knew about her family. Riley must decide what the past means for her present, and what she will do with her newfound reality, in this engrossing *New York Times* bestselling mystery from Diane Chamberlain.

### May 28, 2026

#### **Go as a River by Shelley Read**

Set amid Colorado's wild beauty, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story of a resilient young woman whose life is changed forever by one chance encounter. A tragic and uplifting novel of love and loss, family and survival—and hope—for readers of *Great Circle*, *The Four Winds*, and *Where the Crawdads Sing*.

### June 25, 2026

#### **Long Way Gone by Charles Martin**

Cooper O'Connor thought he could make it big as a musician, but he promptly lost it all. Can he repair his relationship with the father who never stopped calling him home? A Prodigal Son retelling where *Redeeming Love* meets *Walk the Line*

## LIFT REPORT

by Debra Nelson

The LIFT group from our Good Shepherd congregation, an embodiment of hope and unity, spearheaded a joyous celebration honoring Jesus and his hypothetical sister, exemplifying the transformative power of love and compassion. Despite Jesus' family being on route to Bethlehem without prior registration, the group's selflessness shone bright as they gathered for a vibrant baby shower, complete with engaging games, a sumptuous potluck brunch, and generous gift-giving for local unwed mothers and their newborns.

Being part of this remarkable group fills us with heartfelt gratitude, as we collaborate to curate each month's agenda, nurturing an environment of spiritual growth, connection, and collective uplift. This year's highlights have been truly inspiring, featuring our baby shower for unwed mothers, immersive forest bathing experiences, thought-provoking discussions on cultural diversity, faith-affirming movie days, reflective retreats on aging, rejuvenating yoga sessions, and soul-nourishing Sound Healing practices. Yet, the most precious aspect of our group remains the profound relationships we've fostered, rooted in love, positivity, and unwavering support.

**LIFT meets the first and fourth week of every month.** In January, when we meet on the 19<sup>th</sup>, we will be brainstorming ideas of what to learn and experience for several months. If you have an idea, or you would like to join us moving forward, please join us at 10:00 in the Library at Good Shepherd or on our zoom link which will be in the weekly Wednesday update. If you can't join us on the 19<sup>th</sup>, but you have an idea or would like to receive the email agendas of our upcoming meetings, please email Pamela Meyris [pmeyris@myyahoo.com](mailto:pmeyris@myyahoo.com).





**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY: JOIN OUR USHERING TEAM**  
 By Kris Murray

Good Shepherd is known for being a warm and welcoming home, and our ushers are the very first smile people see when they walk through our doors. We are looking for one or two new ushers to join our team once a month. As some of our dedicated ushers have stepped back or headed south for the winter, we have a wonderful opening for you to serve.

What does an usher do?

- Greet parishioners and visitors with a friendly hello.
- Distribute bulletins and assist with seating.
- Present the gifts at the altar.
- Participate in the Holy Eucharist as a leader of the congregation.
- Tidy up the church after the service.

This is a low-pressure, high-reward way to practice stewardship and to get to know your fellow parishioners better.

If you are interested in becoming an usher, please contact Kris Murray at 585-690-8117 or [jmur56@AOL.com](mailto:jmur56@AOL.com)



<b>Joe Yelle</b>	<b>01/03</b>
<b>Mary Jean Crawford</b>	<b>01/04</b>
<b>Dawn Wilkins</b>	<b>01/10</b>
<b>Brenda Pierce</b>	<b>01/11</b>
<b>Rudy Meyris</b>	<b>01/11</b>
<b>Cheryl Kuberka</b>	<b>01/13</b>
<b>Spencer Stokes</b>	<b>01/14</b>
<b>Sully Allen</b>	<b>01/15</b>
<b>Bill Lynam</b>	<b>01/15</b>
<b>Amelia Fitzsimmons</b>	<b>01/16</b>
<b>Abraham Carrington</b>	<b>01/17</b>
<b>Betty Nohle</b>	<b>01/17</b>
<b>Olivia Hess</b>	<b>01/19</b>
<b>Kristen Kuberka</b>	<b>01/20</b>
<b>Thomas Braun</b>	<b>01/22</b>
<b>James White</b>	<b>01/24</b>
<b>John Semmler</b>	<b>01/26</b>
<b>Mike Fitzsimmons</b>	<b>01/26</b>
<b>Isabel O'Neil</b>	<b>01/28</b>
<b>Robin Mason</b>	<b>01/29</b>
<b>Jack Norris</b>	<b>01/29</b>
<b>Dottie Smart</b>	<b>01/29</b>
<b>Barbara Kilian</b>	<b>01/31</b>
<b>Peter Rothfuss</b>	<b>01/31</b>

